



SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a single first-in, first-out memory for carrying out write/read processing of image data;

an enlarging variable magnification unit for carrying out variable-magnification processing following write processing and read processing of image data to and from the first-in, first-out memory during image enlargement; and

a reducing variable magnification unit for writing image data to the first-in, first-out memory after variable-magnification is carried out during image reduction,

wherein variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of variable magnification processing in a scan direction and a subeross-scan direction, and

wherein a write signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than a read signal therefor during enlargement, and the read signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than the write signal therefor during reduction.

Claims 2-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a line memory for storing one line worth of image data;

a plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of output lines for connecting the line memory and the plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of switching means for turning the plurality of output lines on or off individually; and

a variable-magnification processing means for increasing and decreasing the number of times to turn on the switching means in correspondence to magnification ratio, wherein variable magnification processing in ~~is carried out independently in a~~

scan direction is carried out independently of variable magnification processing in and  
a subeross-scan direction, and

wherein the line memory output is connected in parallel to the plurality of  
image forming means.

Claim 10 (new). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a single first-in, first-out memory for carrying out write/read processing of image data;

an enlarging variable magnification unit for carrying out variable-magnification processing following write processing and read processing of image data to and from the first-in, first-out memory during image enlargement; and

a reducing variable magnification unit for writing image data to the first-in, first-out memory after variable-magnification is carried out during image reduction,

wherein variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction is carried out independently of variable magnification processing in the a scan direction.

Claim 11 (new). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a line memory for storing one line worth of image data;

a plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of output lines for connecting the line memory and the plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of switching means for turning the plurality of output lines on or off individually; and

a variable-magnification processing means for increasing and decreasing the number of times to turn on the switching means in correspondence to magnification ratio, wherein variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction is carried out independently of variable magnification processing in a scan direction.